

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON MEDICAL ERRORS AND PATIENT SAFETY

There are numerous organizations that are a resource for information on patient safety. The following is a list of Web sites that provide information on patient safety. This list provides only a fraction of the resources available. There are many more resources available for consumers, health care providers, and policy makers.

Agency for Healthcare Policy and Research (AHRQ): [www.ahrq.gov/consumer](http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer)

The mission of the federal Agency for Healthcare Policy and Research is to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of healthcare for all Americans. Information from this agency's research helps people make more informed decisions and improve the quality of healthcare services.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: [www.cms.hhs.gov/quality](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/quality)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) administers the Medicare program and works in partnership with the states to administer the Medicaid program. CMS has developed a number of quality improvement initiatives that can be found at this site.

Classifications of Patients: [www.emergency-medicine.info/articles/asa-classification-grades.html](http://www.emergency-medicine.info/articles/asa-classification-grades.html)

Classification of patients according to pre-operative physical status was initially suggested in 1941 by the American Society of Anesthetists, the forerunner of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). The modern classification system was adopted in 1961.

Consumers Advancing Patient Safety: [www.patientsafety.org](http://www.patientsafety.org)

Consumers Advancing Patient Safety is a consumer-led nonprofit organization, formed to be a collective voice for individuals, families and healers who wish to prevent harm in healthcare encounters through partnership and collaboration. In addition to the organization resources available on their Web site, this site also provides several links to other patient safety Web sites of interest to consumers.

Institute of Medicine of the National Academies: [www.iom.edu](http://www.iom.edu)

A nonprofit organization specifically created for science-based advice on matters of biomedical science, medicine, and health as well as an honorific membership organization, the Institute of Medicine was chartered in 1970 as a component of the National Academy of Sciences.

Institute for Safe Medication Practices: [www.ismp.org/Pages/Consumer.html](http://www.ismp.org/Pages/Consumer.html)

Alerts for Patients page containing a listing of frequent medication errors and how to avoid them, general information and advice on medication safety for consumers.

Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO):

[www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/](http://www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/)

The Commission evaluates and accredits more than 15,000 healthcare organizations and programs in the United States. Its mission is to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public. A number of patient safety tips for patients and consumers can be found at their website.

Leapfrog Group: [www.leapfroggroup.org](http://www.leapfroggroup.org)

The Leapfrog Group is an initiative driven by organizations that buy health care who are working to initiate breakthrough improvements in the safety, quality and affordability of healthcare for Americans. The Leapfrog Website provides quality and safety information about hospitals that consumers can search.

Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety: [www.mnpatientsafety.org](http://www.mnpatientsafety.org)

The Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety was established in 2000 as a partnership between public and private health care organizations working together to improve patient safety. Information about Minnesota's patient safety coalition can be found at this site.

Minnesota Department of Health: [www.health.state.mn.us/patientsafety/publications/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/patientsafety/publications/index.html)

This site provides information on Minnesota's Adverse Health Event Annual Reports.

National Academy for State Health Policy: [www.nashp.org](http://www.nashp.org)

The National Academy for State Health Policy is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to helping states achieve excellence in health policy and practice. The organization provides resources to compare patient safety initiatives and approaches across the states.

National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention: [www.nccmerp.org](http://www.nccmerp.org)

This organization is an independent body comprised of twenty-three national organizations. The mission of the National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention is to maximize the safe use of medications and to increase awareness of medication errors through open communication, increased reporting and promotion of medication error prevention strategies.

National Patient Safety Foundation: [www.npsf.org](http://www.npsf.org)

The Foundation's mission is to improve the safety of patients through efforts to: identify and create a core body of knowledge; identify pathways to apply the knowledge; develop and enhance the culture of receptivity to patient safety; raise public awareness and foster communications about patient safety; and improve the status of the Foundation and its ability to meet its goals.

National Quality Forum: [www.qualityforum.org](http://www.qualityforum.org)

The mission of the National Quality Forum is to improve the quality of American healthcare by setting national priorities and goals for performance improvement, endorsing national

consensus standards for measuring and publicly reporting on performance, and promoting the attainment of national goals through education and outreach programs.

#### Pressure ulcer information

Mayo Clinic: [www.mayoclinic.com/health/bedsores/DS00570](http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/bedsores/DS00570)

This site provides information from the Mayo Clinic, the world's first and largest integrated group medical practice.

Medline Plus: [www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/pressuresores.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/pressuresores.html)

Medline Plus is a service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health

Protecting 5,000,000 Lives from Harm Campaign: [www.ihl.org/IHL/Programs/Campaign](http://www.ihl.org/IHL/Programs/Campaign)

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement is a Cambridge, Massachusetts based not-for-profit organization. The Institute launched the Campaign to Protect 5 Million Lives from Harm, the next phase after their Campaign to Save 100,000 Lives.

Quality Interagency Coordination Task Force: [www.quic.gov/report/](http://www.quic.gov/report/)

The Quality Interagency Coordination Task Force was established in 1998 in accordance with a Presidential directive. The purpose of the Task Force was to ensure that all federal agencies involved in purchasing, providing, studying, or regulating health care services were working in a coordinated manner toward the common goal of improving quality care.